

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 SSM-03 /090 W
-----111781 301650Z /43

R 301417Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9574
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 28686

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, FR, IS, XF
SUBJ: FRANCE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: TEL AVIV 7182

BEGIN SUMMARY: QUAI DIRECTOR OF NORTH AFRICAN AND
MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS TOLD US SEPTEMBER 28 THAT HE CAME
AWAY FROM HIS RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN MOSCOW CONVINCED
THAT THE SOVIETS WANT A RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA
MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS AND THAT HE BELIEVES THEY ARE
TELLING THE PLO TO ACCEPT SC RES 242. CERLES SAID
THE GOF UNDERSTANDS AND SUPPORTS THE US DESIRE TO
AVOID ANY TAMPERING WITH 242. HE HAD HEARD TALK OF A
POSSIBLE MOVE TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION REFERRING TO
242 AND DEFINING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS BUT HE HAD NOT
BEEN ABLE TO PIN DOWN ANY DETAILS. CERLES SAID THAT
FRANCO-ISRAELI RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED IN THE PAST
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FEW MONTHS BUT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING NEW ON THE
POSSIBILITY OF A BEGIN VISIT TO FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON SEPTEMBER 28 THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR ACCOMPANIED
BY EMBOFF COVERING ME AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS PAID AN
INITIAL CALL ON QUAI DIRECTOR OF NORTH AFRICAN AND
MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, PIERRE CERLES. CERLES HAD JUST

RETURNED THE PREVIOUS WEEK FROM MOSCOW WHERE HE HAD HAD TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS ON MIDDLE EAST MATTERS WITH SOVIET ME EXPERT SYTENKO. CERLES CAME AWAY FROM THESE TALKS WITH THE BELIEF THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE A GENEVA CONFERENCE RECONVENED, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO GET THEMSELVES BACK INTO THE MIDDLE EAST GAME. WE NOTED THAT IF THIS IS THE CASE IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHAT THE RUSSIANS ARE TELLING THE PLO SINCE THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN RECOGNITION APPEARS TO BE THE MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK TO GENEVA AT THE PRESENT TIME.

2. CERLES SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HAD NOT BEEN PRECISE ON THIS POINT BUT THAT HE HAD THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE TELLING ARAFAT THAT HE SHOULD ACCEPT SC RES 242. CERLES SAID SYTENKO HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE PALESTINIAN ATTITUDE WAS THAT AMERICAN RECOGNITION WAS NOT ENOUGH RETURN FOR ACCEPTING 242. THEY MAINTAINED THAT THEY ARE ALREADY ABLE TO COMMUNICATE ADEQUATELY WITH THE AMERICANS THROUGH THIRD AND--GIVING THE STANDARD ARGUMENT--THEY WOULD BE GIVING UP THEIR SOLE NEGOTIATING CARD, RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, WITHOUT ANY COMPENSATING CONCESSION BY ISRAEL.

3. WE ASKED WHETHER THE PLO HAD ASKED ANYTHING OF FRANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORTHCOMING UNGA SESSION.
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(FONMIN GUIRINGAUD MET IN PARIS WITH FARUK KADUMI AND

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 28686

KHALID AL HASSAN PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK.)
CERLES STATED FLATLY THAT THEY HAD NOT. THE CONVER-
SATIONS IN PARIS WERE ONLY AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. WE
INQUIRED WHETHER CERLES WAS AWARE OF ANY POSSIBLE
INITIATIVE TO FLOAT A NEW SC RES WHICH WOULD MODIFY
242. WE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF GREAT
CONCERN TO US AS 242 FORMS THE BASIS FOR OUR PEACE
EFFORTS AND IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE
RESULTS SHOULD THIS BE TAMPERED WITH. CERLES SAID
THAT THE GOF UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION PERFECTLY AND
AGREED WITH IT; FRANCE WOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE AT THE
UN SO LONG AS OUR PEACE EFFORTS WERE ALIVE. AS TO
INITIATIVES BY OTHERS AT THE UN, HE HAD HEARD PRIOR
TO HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW OF A POSSIBLE ROMANIAN MOVE TO
INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD REFER TO (BUT NOT
CHANGE) 242 AND DEFINE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. HE HAD
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ASKED SYTENKO ABOUT THIS. SYTENKO HAD PROFESSED
COMPLETE IGNORANCE.

4. TURNING TO SUBJECT OF FRANCO-ISRAELI RELATIONS,
WE SAID WE HAD NOTICED SOME RECENT IMPROVEMENT AND
ASKED ABOUT FUTURE PROSPECTS. CERLES SAID THERE HAD
INDEED BEEN IMPROVEMENT IN RECENT MONTHS. GUIRINGAUD
HAD HAD A GOOD VISIT THERE LAST MARCH AND WAS WARMLY
RECEIVED. IN A SOMEWHAT PHILOSOPHICAL VEIN CERLES
SAID THAT RELATIONS WOULD LOGICALLY IMPROVE FURTHER
AS THE ISRAELIS CAME TO A GREATER APPRECIATION OF THE
REALITIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND THEIR OWN
ISOLATION A-VIS WORLD OPINION. HE ACKNOW-
LEDGED THAT THE INVITATION EXTENDED TO RABIN REMAINED
OPEN FOR BEGIN BUT WAS UNCOMMUNICATIVE ON THE SUBJECT
OF A POSSIBLE BEGIN VISIT TO FRANCE.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE TALKS, CONSULTANTS, PLANNING MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS28686
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770357-0220
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977093/aaaaacmn.tel
Line Count: 169
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 49585e3f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 7182
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1160656
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRANCE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PGOV, FR, IS, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49585e3f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009